POOR LAW (IRELAND).

RETURN to an Address of the Honourable The House of Commons, dated 21 February 1848;—*for*,

A "COPY of a LETTER from the POOR LAW COMMISSION in *Ireland*, dated the 19th day of February 1848, to the UNDER SECRETARY of STATE, on the COLLECTION of POOR RATE in 1847."

Whitehall, 23 February 1848.

DENIS LE MARCHANT.

To SIR DENIS LE MARCHANT, BART., &c., &c., &c.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 19 February 1848.

Sir,

THE Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland have the honour to state, for Sir George Grey's information, that the collection of Poor Rates in Ireland during the month of January 1848, is now known to have exceeded 190,000*l.*

A statement in the usual form is in preparation for that month, and will be forwarded in due course when completed.

The series of similar statements already forwarded, extends to the close of the year 1847, and the Commissioners take this opportunity of reviewing the collection of rates in Ireland during the past year, and of placing before Sir George Grey some particulars not contained in their previous communications to him on this subject.

The total amount of poor rates made in Ireland during the year 1847, appears to have been 1,618,240*l.*, giving an average throughout the Unions of 2*s.* 5½*d.* in the pound.

The total amount of the rates previously made, but uncollected at commencement of the year, was 243,384*l.*

The total amount, therefore, which was in progress of collection during the year, was 1,861,624*l.*; of this total there was collected within the year, 970,318*l.*, giving an average throughout the Unions of 1*s.* 5½*d.* in the pound.

The fact that less than half the rate which was in collection in 1847 was collected within that year, will be explained by the following statement of the account of rates made in each month, whereby it will appear, that of the total arrear which remained uncollected on the 1st January 1848, viz. 890,639*l.*, no less than 715,693*l.* consisted of rates made within the preceding four months.

The Rates made in the Month of	Amounted to
	£.
January - 1847	60,008
February „	75,451
March - „	38,570
April - „	147,734
May - „	121,315
June - „	116,943
July - „	192,487
August - „	149,372
September „	199,707
October „	168,852
November „	147,353
December „	199,781
TOTAL in the 12 Months - £.	1,618,240

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The average period heretofore usually bestowed on the collection of rate in Ireland appears to have been about six months; this length of time is owing partly to the provisions of the original Act, which contemplate a half-yearly rating in each Union, and partly to the great extent of the collecting districts, which comprise on the average 45 square miles each, the entire number of collectors being 699.

The amount collected in January shows an increased ratio in the progress of the collection as compared with the amount on the books, and the Commissioners have every reason to believe that in the present month the collection is also satisfactory.

The Commissioners have deemed it right to submit these remarks to Sir George Grey, inasmuch as they are aware that the large amount returned in the column uncollected in the recent monthly statements, has led to a supposition that a large portion of that amount is likely to fail of being collected, which, looking to the present ratios of progress, the Commissioners have no reason to suppose will be the case.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Wm Stanley,*

Secretary.

POOR LAW (IRELAND).

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(*Sir George Grey.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
23 *February* 1848.

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